



# **MEETING MINUTES**

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO**

### **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Regular Meetings: The First, Second,  
and Third Tuesday of each month

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

County Courthouse  
Bridgeport, California 93517

**December 18, 2007**

**9:00 a.m. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Hazard**

**Pledge of Allegiance led by David Wilbrecht, CAO**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

*No one spoke.*

#### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

*The Board deferred Board Member Reports to the next regular meeting.*

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

- 1) CAO Report regarding Board Assignments **(David Wilbrecht)**  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.  
**David Wilbrecht**, CAO, reported on the following issues and activities:
  1. The north and south county holiday luncheons were a great success.
  2. Worked on the Novus software with the agenda review committee; problems still need to be resolved before launching the software. The next step will be to replicate the agenda process in a more real-world setting (i.e. submitting new items over a period of time rather than in a concentrated setting); the committee will do this after the first of the year. If issues continue to arise, will bring Novus on site to help resolve problems.
  3. Attended the Antelope Valley Senior Workshop meeting. Talked about specific items to be included in the revised MOU. Will be working closely with IMAAA and ESTA after the first of the year. The Workshop is interested in working with the County, and Supervisor Reid will be an *ex officio* member on their board. Brian Muir will be active in reviewing the financial records.
  4. Met with Jim Lovett and Bob Musil to talk about management issues in the Assessor's Office. After the meeting, drafted a memo clarifying management authority and responsibilities.

5. The Sierra Center Mall tenant improvements are moving forward. Need to do work on the financial side; will meet with the District Attorney about funding he may available.
6. Relocated the CAO office temporarily to the second floor of the Sierra Center Mall. The space can also be used as a conference room when not in use.

## 2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular meeting of December 4, 2007, as corrected.

**M07-285** *(Reid/Hunt, 4-0; Farnetti abstain)*

1. Supervisor Reid: Correction on Page 3, CAO Report, #8. Traveled to Benton with ***Supervisor Hazard***.
2. Chairman Hazard: Correction on Page 2, Chairman Hazard's Board Report, #4. There will be a discussion about ***finding someone to be responsible for the system***.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

***Closed session from 9:04 a.m. through 10:08 a.m.; reconvened at 10:08 a.m.***

- 3) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION. Subdivision (a) of Government Code 54956.9. Workers' Compensation Claim of John Aronson.
- 4) CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54956.8. Property: 51 Shop Road, Coleville, California. Agency negotiators: Dave Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, and Brian Muir. Negotiating parties: Mono County and the Antelope Valley Fire Protection District. Under negotiation: price and terms of payment.
- 5) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54957.6. Agency designated representative: to be announced. Unrepresented employees: county counsel and county administrator.
- 6) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54957.6. Agency designated representatives: David Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Robert Garret, Richard Scholl, and Brian Muir. Unrepresented employees: Undersheriff.

***The Board had nothing to report from closed session.***

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES**

**Clay Neely** reported on the following:

1. Update about state and federal mandates regarding the election process and the impact on the IT staff. The process focuses on security of software and hardware, which is taking 6-8

weeks of IT time. The election consultant, Sequoia, has indicated that Mono County is in compliance and prepared for February. A member of the Secretary of State's Office may be on site election day.

2. Introduced new employee Cameron Cary, who replaced Jerry Spindler.

**Mary Booher** reported on the following:

1. Health care reform update. The Assembly approved ABX1-1 (Booher distributed information about the bill). The cost for health care reform is projected to be \$14.4 billion; the Governor intends to declare a fiscal emergency after the first of the year. The legislative analyst's office is reviewing the situation.

**Tom Wallace** reported on the following:

1. Unsure at this time what will happen to the County Medical Services Program (CMSP) under the new health care plan talked about by Booher. Mammoth Hospital has received a grant from CMSP for \$188,000, to be paid over three years. The grant provides for an enhanced mental health, and drug and alcohol benefit for CMSP beneficiaries. By providing a higher level of treatment, costs of services should decrease. They will contract back to the mental health department for staff time devoted to the project (\$56,000 per year).

**Ed Zylman** reported on the following:

1. Distributed information showing efforts to provide emergency shelters and evacuation centers throughout the County. Will ask for additional funds next year to completely outfit the trailers. Zylman recognized the efforts of Kathy Watkins.

**Mark Mikulicich** reported on the following:

1. Updated the Board about the Medic 1 ambulance. The Medic 1 ambulance was being stored next to quarters, which is not optimal due to cold weather so they made other arrangements. The Antelope Valley Fire Commissioner agreed to store the ambulance in a garage in Antelope Valley. They will work together to find a place to store the brush rig that was displaced by the ambulance. All parties involved were amicable about the arrangement.

## CONSENT AGENDA

*(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved in one motion  
unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item)*

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 7) Building Ordinance Amendment  
**Ord07-12** **ACTION:** (1) Adopt **Ordinance Ord07-12** modifying portions of the 2007 California Building Standards Code, including provisions for local ground snow loads and reiterating Section 15.04.240 of the Mono County Code regarding high rise building code requirements. (2) Direct filing of modification, if approved, with the California Building Standards Commission.  
**(Hunt/Bauer, 5-0)**

## REGULAR AGENDA

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, FINANCE, AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- 8) Funding to Wild Iris from the Domestic Violence Shelter Special Fund (**Brian Muir and Mark Magit**)  
**R07-85 ACTION:** Adopt **Resolution R07-85** that authorizes the Auditor to disburse funds to Wild Iris from the County domestic violence special fund, makes findings that Wild Iris is a qualified domestic violence shelter-based program, and authorizes the County Administrative Officer to enter into an Agreement with Wild Iris.  
**(Hunt/Farnetti, 5-0)**

Mark Magit: The County places \$23 of each marriage license fee into a special fund to be provided to a community domestic violence shelter program. This funding has been going to Wild Iris for a number of years; the process has been informal, and the finance director suggested formalizing the program. Wild Iris is a valuable asset to victims of domestic violence.

Chairman Hazard said he wants to be sure the money is used specifically for the shelter program and asked about reporting. Magit said the statute provides for collection and pass through of funds, and the recipient provides an annual overview and report about the use of the money. Ed Zylman said he will contact the Wild Iris administration about an annual review, and will report back to the Board. He said his staff works closely with Wild Iris, and Wild Iris provides a fantastic service. Lisa Reel, executive director of Wild Iris, thanked the Board for their consideration and support. She introduced Lourdes Gonzalez, their clinical director. Reel said their total budget is approximately \$800,000, primarily funded by the state and federal governments.

Supervisor Hunt said Wild Iris is doing great things to help meet the needs of the community. Chairman Hazard concurred and said Wild Iris has done a phenomenal job for the County, and is very responsive.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 9) Discussion and Possible Approval of Contract with Snowcreek Athletic Club (**Dan Lyster**)  
**M07-286 ACTION:** Approve proposed contract with Snowcreek Athletic Club in conjunction with Mono County's Wellness Program, in the amount of \$11,500.00 for the remaining six months of FY 2007-2008, and \$23,000.00 for FY 2008-2009.  
**(Hunt/Farnetti, 5-0)**

Dan Lyster: Met with the new owners of Snowcreek Athletic Club to negotiate the contract; it is fair. The discount rate will be 32%, and will not be based on the number of members. One correction to the contract: A couple's membership will be \$82 instead of \$81 as listed. Also, the fiscal impact for 2008-2009 will be \$23,000. The costs to the County are approximately the same; the increased costs will be passed on to the employees. The wellness program has been working.

Supervisor Hunt said the term of the agreement is two years, and asked if the rates will increase after two years since they are making major changes to the facility. Lyster was unable to provide an answer at this time about future costs. Hunt said this program is not a gift of public funds, and asked Lyster to report on the value of the program to the County. Lyster said due to the wellness program, there has been a decrease in workers' compensation claims, and morale has been positively affected; providing this program has been a great benefit. Supervisor Reid asked if this program requires a meet and confer with the union. Marshall Rudolph said no; it is a separate benefit that the County can discontinue at any time.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- 10) Proposed Development of a Reserve Paramedic/Firefighter Division for the County EMS System (**Mark Mikulicich**)
- M07-287** **ACTION:** Approve the concept of the Reserve Paramedic Program to bolster the abilities of the Division, and direct the Department Chief in conjunction with the Human Resources Manager, to initiate, develop and institute this program. (**Bauer/Hunt, 5-0**)

Mark Mikulicich: Recommended that the Board direct Emergency Medical Services, along with Human Resources, to implement the program. Mikulicich provided highlights about the proposal:

- Mono County has traditionally utilized part-time help in the form of EMT (BLS) personnel. This has worked well, but it is hard to keep people trained at a proficient level.
- The reserve paramedics would be hired from within ranks.
- This program would offer additional scheduling options and cost savings in overtime, and would provide the highest level of care possible with part-time personnel.
- There would be benefits of having both reserve medics and part-time EMTs.
- Guidelines were developed in conjunction with the Paramedic Association and are outlined in the staff report.
- Suggested having the County assist with paying for some of the training; this would not be a big expense.
- Could use reserve personnel to assist with emergencies, disasters, and teaching, which would provide the Association with the benefit of not having forced hires.
- There is currently only one reservist that meets the criteria; this person has expressed an interest in the program. Within the next few years, however, there will be 3-4 retirees and EMS would like to keep them involved through this program.

Supervisor Farnetti said this is an excellent program; he asked for additional information about the fiscal impact. Mikulicich said there is a potential savings because reservists will be used rather than paying overtime; he will work through the details with Human Resources. EMS is currently paying overtime on 15 shifts per month.

Chairman Hazard asked why reservists would be required to maintain their own certification and paramedic skills, but the County would pay for fire fighting training. Mikulicich said he would like them to stay current on fire fighting skills, and in-house training would minimize costs. Supervisor Reid pointed out that the hours cap should be 960 per year, rather than the 1,000 as specified.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### 11a) Review of Snow Removal Policies and Priorities (**Evan Nikirk**)

**ACTION:** (1) Receive staff report regarding current snow removal policies and priorities. (2) Provide direction to staff regarding street additions or deletions and/or changes to current snow removal policies, procedures, or priorities. (3) Provide any other desired direction to staff.

Evan Nikirk: The agenda packet contains a map and a copy of the 2004 resolution adopting a snow removal policy; he will bring two resolutions back to the Board at some point to include new streets. Nikirk asked the Board if they wanted to change policies or practices

Chairman Hazard said maintenance seems to be a big expense. Nikirk said new roads now have to be accompanied by a zone of benefit to pay for the cost of maintenance and snow removal; each zone of benefit has a separate account.

Supervisor Reid said people in Mono City would like the Lundy Lake gate to remain open until the snow comes so they have access to the trailhead. Nikirk distributed copies of the staff report and minute order from 1987 when authority was given for the gate at Lundy Lake.

Regarding snow removal personnel, Nikirk said he has two employees from parks and facilities that share time with snow removal, and two members of the road crew are available to assist. In order to offset revenue shortfalls, two positions remain vacant. Snow removal becomes the main priority for this crew.

Supervisor Farnetti asked how long it takes to clear the Class 1, 2, and 3 roads. Nikirk said they can usually handle the responsibility in one day; they start early in order to open the school grounds and main roads. When feasible and necessary, they will clear back roads. The Peterson Tract is the only area using a contract snow removal service. Nikirk said the list of roads maintained is continuously monitored and updated, and is submitted to the State for funds acquisition.

The Board had no changes at this time.

### 11b) Agreement for Peterson Tract Snow Removal Services (**Evan Nikirk**)

**M07-288**

**ACTION:** Authorize the Public Works Director (in consultation with County Counsel) to execute and administer an agreement with Marzano & Sons General Engineering in an amount not to exceed \$18,000 to perform snow removal services in the Peterson Tract for the 2007-2008 winter. This authorization shall include making minor amendments to said agreement from time to time as the Public Works Director may deem necessary, provided such amendments do not substantially alter the scope of work or budget and are approved as to form by County Counsel.

**(Bauer/Reid, 5-0)**

Nikirk: This is an annual agreement; the draft agreement is in the agenda packet. The average cost over the last seven years has been about \$22,000; costs have ranged from \$8,000 to \$48,000. The amount set for the proposed contract is not to exceed \$18,000, and will provide for an average snow year. The contract is funded by the Peterson Tract zone of benefit, which generates a little over \$17,000; the fund currently has a surplus.

**11c) Purchase of Bridgeport Skateboard Park Equipment (Kelly Garcia)**

**M07-289 ACTION:** (1) Approve and authorize the Director of Public Works to enter into a purchase agreement for skateboard park equipment from American Ramp Company in the amount of \$37,010.02. (2) Authorize staff to accept a donation from the Bridgeport Skateboard Park Committee in the amount of \$37,358.00. Revenue to be deposited in the Capital Improvement Program fund for the Bridgeport Skateboard Park project.  
**(Reid/Hunt, 5-0)**

Kelly Garcia: This project has been in process for several years. Public Works needs authorization to purchase the equipment, which will be placed on the asphalt surface, and authorization to accept the donation. The equipment will be funded from \$37,358 raised by the community, and \$50,000 from Prop 12 funding for state parks; the asphalt cost was about \$25,000, and was done in conjunction with the airport paving. There will be about \$24,000 left to pay for the cost of labor, landscaping, and an emergency phone. Garcia reviewed the proposed landscaping plan. The staff report includes a comparison of the three bids; American Ramp offered the best durability and price per square foot. Garcia recommended authorization to purchase the equipment from them. The proposed contract has been reviewed; one adjustment was made to include prevailing wage compensation.

Supervisor Reid said this has been a long time coming, and some of the funding came from the past Harley Davidson jamborees. He agreed that American Ramp is far superior. Reid asked for an explanation about hardscape and about placement of landscaping. Garcia said hardscape includes concrete sidewalks to meet ADA accessibility, and the landscaping will be a continuation of the existing landscape.

Chairman Hazard asked about a pathway system for bicycles. Garcia said the area is paved all the way to the ball fields, with about 300 feet of gravel to the entrance. They may be able to provide another entrance in the future.

**~ LUNCH RECESS ~**

***Break from 11:52 a.m. through 1:00 p.m.; reconvened at 1:00 p.m.***

**OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

No one spoke.

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE—HUMAN RESOURCES

**12a)** A Resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Amending the County's Management Policy (**Robert Garret**)

**R07-86 ACTION:** Adopt **Resolution R07-86** amending the Mono County Policy regarding the compensation of Management Level Officers and Employees, with the amendment provided by County Counsel that reads: Pursuant to Article II of said Policy, and notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board hereby finds and determines—based on the conduct of the current Assessor, James Lovett—that the Assessor's salary shall no longer be governed by the Policy because the duties and work of that office generally demand fewer than 40 hours of Mr. Lovett's personal time per week. Any references in the Policy to said position—as a benchmark or otherwise—shall be utilized and interpreted solely for purposes of determining the salary of other positions tied to that benchmark (i.e., Assistant Assessor).  
*(Reid/Farnetti, 5-0)*

Robert Garret: Every other year, Mono County does a survey of 23 counties in order to determine management compensation; during the intervening years, the consumer price index is used to make adjustments. Garret gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the process used to create the current management compensation policy and outlining proposed adjustments for 2008 (a copy of the presentation is on file in the Clerk's Office). Garret highlighted the following:

- The new policy (created about three years ago) considers 14 demographic and economic factors, and not just population. Garret outlined the comparison methods used to establish the policy, and provided a detailed review of the 14 demographic and economic factors.
- Reviewed the benchmarking process and internal relationships among management positions. The new policy also corrected anomalies in pay between several positions.
- Outlined proposed salary adjustments and fiscal impact.
- Adopting this policy will result in an unbudgeted cost of \$306,000. This will impact 44-48 employees; many employees have moved into at-will status, and the management structure has expanded. This also includes professional employees.
- The survey has been incorporated into the collective bargaining contracts.
- When originally anticipating a salary increase for 2008, Garret thought an increase would be around 5%; it came in much higher.

Supervisor Bauer recalled that using the 23-county survey would keep Mono County ahead of the curve in retaining management level employees. Garret suggested continuing to stay ahead of the curve.

Chairman Hazard pointed out the two types of management teams—new management recruits and those with many years of collective experience. It is important to retain people in these positions as long as possible. The value of the historical view of the County is important. Mono County is competing with other agencies throughout the state.

Clay Neely: The IT department competes in the world market for employees; it recently took seven months to fill a vacancy. Most people in the IT industry want to be near an urban center; the IT Department must find people who want to live in the rural environment of Mono County.



George Booth: Because of this management compensation policy, the DA's office has been able to attract superb employees. The taxpayers are getting highly qualified people.

Supervisor Farnetti said this policy has helped recruitment and retention; Mono County has been able to hire and retain high caliber employees. Regarding the amount of the proposed adjustments, a weighted average over a two-year period balances out the size of the increases.

Marshall Rudolph addressed the application of the policy to the Assessor. The question arose because of a perception about the incumbent not working 40 hours per week. This compensation policy shall not apply to any officer or employee when less than 40 hours per week is required to perform their duties; this policy is intended for full-time positions. If the Board wants to make a finding about the Assessor's position, the Board can amend the resolution and remove the position of Assessor from the policy. Chairman Hazard asked what would happen if the Assessor's position became a 40-hour per week job in the future. Rudolph said the Board would make new findings that the position is now a 40-hour per week job.

Supervisor Reid said he believes management and department head employees do a tremendous job, and the surveys are some of the best work he has seen. Regarding the Assessor, he agreed with removing the position from the survey. Supervisor Farnetti also agreed, and said he could not support keeping the Assessor's position in this policy since the incumbent isn't currently contributing 100% to the department. Supervisor Bauer agreed with pulling the Assessor out of the policy; she wanted the policy to focus on the good and professional work being done by the current management staff, which has raised the bar. Supervisor Hunt said at an RCRC meeting, Mono County was recognized as being on the cutting edge throughout the state of keeping management positions staffed with quality employees. This is a way to build a County government from which all can benefit.

Chairman Hazard agreed with the comments made by the other Supervisors, and said the employees willing to become at-will have demonstrated a high standard. He supported the recommendation to remove the Assessor position from the policy. Hazard then asked the Assessor, James Lovett, if he wanted to address this issue.

James Lovett: The office is functioning very well. Regarding his 40 hours on the job, he has said several times for the record that the office is top heavy with management. His function has been to delegate and follow up; the results will show that the office is effective and efficient. However, if the Board wants the Assessor in the office 40 hours a week, they need to eliminate the position of Assistant Assessor. This was supposed to happen when Lovett was promoted to Assessor.

Supervisor Hunt said delegation is fine as long as the Assessor does his duty.

David Wilbrecht, CAO, said due to recent vacancies in the Assessor's Office, there was an opportunity to reallocate duties so the Assessor could come back to work full time. The idea had been discussed about whether or not to fill the positions since the office is top heavy in management. The Assessor chose to fill the vacant positions.

- 12b)** A Resolution Establishing and Adjusting the 2008 Base Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees through the Implementation of the County's Management Compensation Policy and Performance Review of the County Administrative Officer and County Counsel **(Robert Garret)**
- R07-87**

**ACTION:** Adopt **Resolution R07-87** establishing and adjusting the 2008 base compensation of certain officers and employees through the implementation of the County's Management Compensation Policy and Performance Review of the County Administrative Officer and County Counsel, with the substantive change made by County Counsel, which replaces the word "ordains" with the word "resolves".

**(Hunt/Farnetti, 5-0)**

Robert Garret: The proposed resolution will specify management compensation rates. Garret distributed an amended copy since negotiations with the County Counsel and CAO concluded this morning.

Marshall Rudolph suggested deleting the reference to the Assessor, since his current salary would remain in effect (this issue was discussed in 12a). The salaries listed in Exhibits A, B, and C (except for the Board of Supervisors) will become effective January 1, 2008; the position of Assessor will be deleted from Exhibit B. Rudolph pointed out one substantive change to the resolution: the word "ordains", should be changed to "resolves" (NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONO RESOLVES...).

- 12c)** An Ordinance of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Amending Section 2.04.030 of the Mono County Code Pertaining to the Compensation of the Board of Supervisors **(Robert Garret)**
- M07-290**

**ACTION:** Introduce, read title, and waive further reading of an ordinance of the Mono County Board of Supervisors amending section 2.04.030 of the Mono County Code pertaining to the compensation of the Board of Supervisors.

**(Bauer/Hunt, 5-0)**

Robert Garret: The Board of Supervisors' salaries are required to be set by ordinance. The Board has been brought under the management compensation policy, and salary adjustments will now be considered along with other management employees. Board salaries should be determined on a neutral basis like everyone else, so the proposed raises were determined using the management compensation policy. The ordinance will need to come back for a second reading and approval in January.

Supervisor Reid said he has always supported a benchmark approach to determining Board salaries. This will be the first time he has voted for a pay raise since the process is no longer arbitrary.

- 12d)** Resolution Approving Employment Contract with Ralph Obenberger (**Robert Garret**)
- R07-88** **ACTION:** Adopt **Resolution R07-88** approving an employment agreement with Ralph Obenberger as Undersheriff, and prescribing the compensation, appointment, and conditions of said employment.  
**(Hazard/Bauer, 5-0)**

Robert Garret: Distributed a revised copy of the contract, and said this hire will allow for a smooth transition in the Sheriff's Department; the Sheriff supports the action. The fiscal impact of this contract is January 1 through June 30, 2008, which reflects half the fiscal year. The money is allocated in the budget.

Ralph Obenberger expressed his appreciation for this opportunity. Chairman Hazard passed the gavel to Vice Chair Bauer so he could make the motion.

***Break from 2:21 p.m. through 2:31 p.m.; reconvened 2:31 p.m.***

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- 13)** Housing Strategic Planning Services (**Scott Burns**)
- M07-291** **ACTION:** Direct the Community Development Director to initiate a contract for Housing Authority strategic planning and visioning services with California Coalition for Rural Housing at a not-to-exceed cost of \$15,000, subject to approval by the Risk Manager and County Counsel, and signature by the County Administrative Officer.  
**(Reid/ Hunt, 5-0)**

Scott Burns: This item was recently discussed by the Housing Authority. California Coalition for Rural Housing is an advocacy group from Sacramento, and is interested in helping Mono County with visioning and strategic planning. This is a high priority and funds are available in the planning and transportation budget to cover the \$15,000 cost. Burns asked the Board to authorize initiation of a contract with the CCRH for a series of up to five workshops (starting in January) with the Housing Authority, to work through the visioning process and assist with development of a strategic plan.

Supervisor Hunt said CCRH does good work and the County should use their services; \$15,000 is a reasonable cost. A lot will happen with housing over the next 10-20 years, and now is the time to prepare.

## COUNTY COUNSEL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 14) Proposed Contract (**Marshall Rudolph and Scott Burns**)  
**M07-292** **ACTION:** Approve proposed agreement between the County and Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc. for subrecipient/administrative services with respect to a HOME grant (06-HOME-2359), and authorize the Board Chair to sign said contract on behalf of the County.  
*(Hunt/Farnetti, 5-0)*

Marshall Rudolph: Mammoth Lakes Housing will administer a HOME grant. No general funds are involved, and an indemnification clause has been added to the contract. Chairman Hazard asked about the travel reimbursement. Rudolph said MLH wants to be paid for travel and per diem; this is a policy issue since contractors are not generally reimbursed for these costs. Hazard said all costs will be paid from the grant.

## COUNTY COUNSEL

- 15) Proposed Contract (**Marshall Rudolph**)  
**M07-293** **ACTION:** Approve proposed agreement between the County and Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc. for consulting services, and authorize the Board Chair to sign said contract on behalf of the County.  
*(Hunt/Farnetti, 5-0)*

This item was considered along with #14 above.

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 16a) Verbal Update and Status Report by the Assessor on his Office and Activities (**James Lovett**)  
**ACTION:** (1) Receive a verbal report from the Assessor regarding the status of his office and activities. (2) Provide any desired direction to staff.

James Lovett gave the following report:

- On December 5<sup>th</sup>, gave a presentation at the Mammoth Lakes Town Council per their invitation. During the meeting, he provided a timeline from Chris Hansen regarding Mammoth Mountain, and provided a spreadsheet showing an \$8 million assessment that had been added to the roll.
- The backlog is down to 336 parcels; the year before Lovett started, it was over 2,000 parcels.
- The office is functioning and work is getting done.
- Lovett has started putting together the geothermal property statements; it is complicated so he is doing it himself. This account is right on time.

Board Questions and Comments:

- Chairman Hazard: At the last meeting, Lovett told the Board the assessment of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area would be completed in 3-5 weeks once the consultant received the data; Lovett then changed the timeline to 6-8 weeks. At the Town Council meeting, he reported that the assessment would be delayed to August 2008. Why didn't Lovett notify the Board prior to the Town Council meeting? Hazard expressed concern about agencies not getting their share of the tax money. Lovett: The earlier deadline was Chris Hansen's best information; after Hansen received the data, he revised the date to August 2008. However, the work may be finished earlier. Lovett gave this information to the CAO who said he would notify the Board. Even though the assessment has been delayed, agencies will get their money.

Chairman Hazard expressed concern that businesses are receiving a tax bill that reflects 2-3 years worth of taxes. Lovett said he is working to solve this problem by completing the backlog. Chairman Hazard asked about a reimbursement Lovett filed with the County for a room in Mammoth. Lovett said the claim was within the travel policy. Hazard said Lovett had every opportunity to arrange for a ride to Mammoth per prior policy regarding driving. Lovett said he will not be transported when performing official duties.

- Supervisor Bauer said she did not know where Lovett got his information about getting a room when traveling within the County. She also said Lovett continues to take credit for the large increase in assessed property values; she believes this comes from growth within the communities. Lovett said under his direction the office has increased the assessment roll; he personally did an assessment that resulted in bringing in money to pay for his salary.
- Supervisor Reid referred to the backlog of 336 parcels, and asked Lovett why he does not come to work every day for two weeks and get these done. Lovett said if he does this, he will spend more time in the field and less time in the office. Reid asked about Lovett's room reimbursement. Lovett said he reserved a room because he didn't know what time he would be leaving the Town Council meeting. He believed the claim was within policy; the reimbursement was processed.

**16b) Land Tenure Grant Application (Bill Dunkelberger, BLM Manager)**

**R07-89 ACTION:** Adopt **Resolution R07-89** authorizing a land tenure planning application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for funding from the Strategic Opportunity Grant Program under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of November 7, 2006.  
**(Hunt/Farnetti, 5-0)**

Bill Dunkelberger was unable to attend the meeting. Scott Burns addressed this issue:

- The grant application is due in January.
- There is no impact to the general fund. The application is seeking \$100,000 in grant funds from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.
- The Board can approve the resolution today.

Supervisor Hunt said the deadline for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's second round of grant awards is December 30<sup>th</sup>. This grant will allow the land tenure process to get under way; this is a worthy project. Supervisor Reid asked that Antelope Valley be included in the visioning process.

- 16c)** Discuss and Potentially Approve Board of Supervisors' January 2008 Meeting Schedule (**David Wilbrecht**)
- M07-294** **ACTION:** Cancel the regular Board meeting of January 2, 2008, and schedule a special meeting for January 22, 2008.  
(**Bauer/Reid, 5-0**)

David Wilbrecht: The week of January 1<sup>st</sup> is the New Year's holiday week; the official first meeting of the Board would be January 2<sup>nd</sup>, but some Board Members will be away from office. The question is whether or not to cancel the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, hold the first meeting the following week, and have a special meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. This schedule would retain three meetings for the month. There are, however, only certain things that can be done during a special meeting, so all restricted items would need to be accomplished the first two weeks.

Supervisor Bauer said Monday and Tuesday are both holidays, and many employees are taking time off. Supervisor Reid agreed to cancel the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Chairman Hazard said the Board will need to coordinate the adjourned meeting in Mammoth on January 15<sup>th</sup> to meet with Fish and Game. The Board agreed with the proposed schedule.

### **ADJOURN: 3:08 p.m.**

Prior to adjourning, the Board decided to cancel the evening meeting in Lee Vining due to weather. Supervisor Reid asked to hold the February evening meeting in Lee Vining. Chairman Hazard said the schedule for the 2008 adjourned meetings will be put on a regular meeting agenda for Board discussion.

Regarding the FERC update scheduled for the adjourned meeting, the Board asked Marshall Rudolph to put this item on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

## ***Reconvene Evening Meeting at the Lee Vining Community Center***

***This meeting was cancelled due to weather.***

**6:00 p.m. Call meeting to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

**COUNTY COUNSEL**

- 17) FERC Relicensing of Lundy Powerplant (**Marshall Rudolph**)  
**ACTION:** (1) Receive brief oral update by County Counsel regarding FERC's November 15<sup>th</sup> order amending SCE's license for its Lundy hydroelectric plant. (2) Provide any desired direction to staff.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

- 18) Verbal Update on the Status of the Lee Vining Avalanche Bypass Road (**David Wilbrecht**)  
**ACTION:** Receive verbal report regarding the status of the Lee Vining avalanche bypass road.

**ADJOURN:**

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